

Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) representing the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), myself on the House side, and Senators DASCHLE, LOTT, LEAHY, and HATCH representing the Senate leadership and the chairman and ranking minority membership of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The issues and disagreement between the House and the Senate were thrashed out thoroughly. I can tell the membership tonight that the bill that is before us tonight is better than the bill which was passed on October 12 by a vote of 337 to 79. We were able to get a shorter sunset. We were able to include money laundering provisions which were not in our bill because of jurisdictional problems, but which were in the bill passed by the other body and language was passed by us last week as a result of the efforts of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE).

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill. I do not think we can get a perfect bill given the conflicting issues that are before us; but none of the changes are new in the legislation that is before us compared to either the Committee on Financial Services bill of last week and the Committee on the Judiciary bill of October 12. There is no surprise in any of these issues. This is a bill that is vitally needed. The President has called for it. The Attorney General has called for it, and we should not delay in passing it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, is the gentleman from Wisconsin in any position to assure Members of the House that there will be a conference on this measure?

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it would be my hope that because this is the result of a preconference, the body would pass this bill unamended and send it to the Senate. The issues that would have been debated in the conference were debated in the preconference with the participants that I just mentioned. There was compromise that took place between what the Senate passed and what the House passed.

I think that this bill again is better than the bill that we passed on October 12, and I believe that it is deserving of the support of all Members of the House of Representatives.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would continue to yield, we had a preconference before we had a bill and before there was a conference; and now we are not going to have a conference.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think the urgency of getting this job done is very, very great. If there were issues that were not discussed between this body

and the other body, I think the gentleman's representation would be correct. But all of these issues were discussed.

I think a conference would merely delay passing powers that law enforcement vitally needs. We have done a good job in balancing the need for stronger law enforcement powers and civil liberties. I would urge support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3162.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

□ 2030

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 23, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 23, 2001 at 4:44 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the FY 2000 Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,
Clerk of the House.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Rail-

road Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 23, 2001.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DISTRICT IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be back here where I feel most at home, on the House floor, and have felt that way for more than a decade now, especially tonight when we have had an Earth-shattering experience here in the District, just when the 600,000 people who live here were getting a grip. I speak, of course, of the death of two postal workers unexpectedly that has come down upon us.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor also to say that no city has had a greater number of direct consequences from the September 11 attack than the District of Columbia: The closure of National Airport; the shutdown of our major industry, tourism, the only real industry we have got here except government; the closure of the House; anthrax scares and now anthrax deaths. Like most of you, I know my constituents look to me, they have to look to me for leadership, especially in times of crisis. I am trying to help my people move on to avoid panic, and I need the help of this House and of the entire Congress.

My folks are being very brave when you consider what they have encountered. I have just come from D.C. General Hospital where Majority Leader DASCHLE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI of Maryland, Mayor Williams, and all of us gathered to inspect the facility where postal workers are receiving Cipro. We pray for the families of those who have died from Brentwood and of those who have come down with the disease there and on the Hill.

I must tell you that the postal workers there were amazingly calm, in their uniforms, simply ready to get their Cipro and go on with their work. But, Mr. Speaker, the 24-hour cable and the announcement that health officials have to make, public officials have to make, warning postal workers and Americans of danger have eclipsed any messages that we are Americans and we have got to go on with our lives and not be terrorized by terror.

The leadership role those of us in the Congress, all of us who are public officials, must play in times like this compels us to help our people get their balance, avoid paralysis, panic, and pain.